

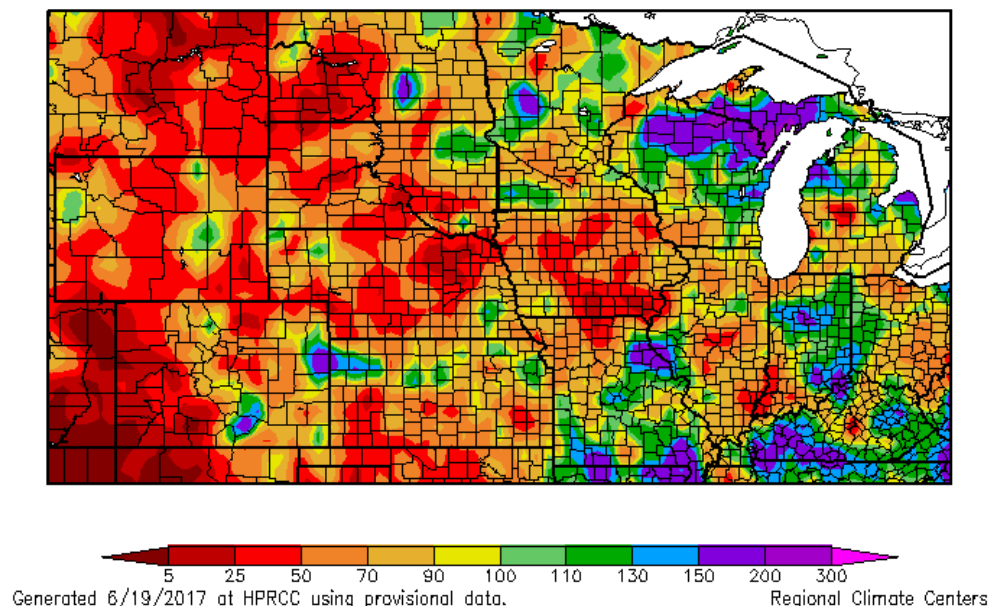
Midwest Ag-Climate Summer Outlook

Updated 20 June 2017

Conditions in the spring and early summer in the Midwest have been of large, opposing extremes, from a warm February to cool in early May to near record heat in early June. Precipitation has also been excessive at times causing widespread replant issues in the eastern Corn Belt, and dryness of the northern plains so far this spring.

Crop planting progress in Iowa through the spring was slightly delayed because of cooler and wetter conditions during planting. The early season warmth slowed and very-cool-early May conditions took over with soil temperatures falling below the critical 50° F level for development for several days. After early May, warm/dry conditions were prevalent over much of the Midwest. The dryness was beneficial in allowing planting to progress more readily and crops to develop. Rains in mid-June eased the dryness in some Midwestern locations.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 5/20/2017 – 6/18/2017



Drought in the Northern Plains and near 100° F heat in mid-June has created some concern about drought/heat conditions impacting crop condition. At this point the extreme heat will have only a limited impact on crop yield. The additional heat will be beneficial (to a certain extent) in helping overcome delayed crop development.

A Look Ahead

Looking ahead to the rest of the growing season is a bit difficult because summer precipitation projections have some limited skill. At this point the hot and dry of early June does not look likely to

stick around for the whole summer. In fact the late June time period looks cool over much of the Midwest. There are some hints of hotter and drier conditions returning in July in the Midwest. The updated outlooks for July and July through August have above-average temperatures slightly more likely through the rest of the growing season. This follows recent trends and what computer models indicate. Precipitation as expected shows no specific trends. There is a region of above average as slightly more likely from northwest Iowa and Minnesota into the northern Plains. This does not seem to have much support currently.

The overall impact in the Corn Belt is still developing. The delayed development by the late plant of the eastern Corn Belt will be somewhat overcome by the warm temperatures in early June. The northwest Corn Belt may have seen some problems with heat and drought because of the early June developing drought conditions. Overall yields in the Corn Belt have likely been trimmed because of the variety of problems.

Looking ahead widespread additional problems are not apparent. But as with most summers small additional pockets of problems are likely to occur. Recent rains have eased issues surrounding the dry northern plains. But issues still exist in the far northwest Corn Belt.

